

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08 AF-08 ARA-10
EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02
SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 /120 W
-----052043Z 069446 /44

R 051515Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3807

UNCLAS ROME 5610

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO
SUBJ: TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP
ON RICE, ROME, MARCH 28-APRIL 1, 1977

1. THE SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS FROM 49 COUNTRIES AND 8 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. POLAND ONLY BLOC PARTICIPANT; CHINA AND CUBA NOT REPRESENTED.

2. MR.H. CARANDANG (PHILIPPINES) WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN;
MR.J.L.SAULT (AUSTRALIA) AND MR.S.M.RICHARDS (LIBERIA) FIRST
AND SECOND VICE-CHAIRMEN RESPECTIVELY.

3. U.S. DELEGATION: LEE SCHATZ, FAS/USDA; CHARLES HIGGINSON
U.S.EMBASSY ROME; AND STEVE GABBERT, RICE MILLER ASSOCIATION.

4. THE GROUP:

(A) DETERMINED THAT EXPORT AVAILABILITIES IN 1977 APPEAR SUFFICIENT
TO MEET TOTAL IMPORT NEEDS WHICH COULD BE marginally lower compared
TO LAST YEAR;

(B) AGREED THAT THE FOOD SECURITY SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO RICE
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HAD IMPROVED AND THAT INCREASED STOCKS OF OTHER CREALS PROVIDED
ADDITIONAL SECURITY.

5. THE TWENTIETH SESSION WAS LESS CONTROVERSIAL THAN THE LAST
SESSION WHEN FOOD SECURITY WAS A MORE PROMINENT ISSUE BEFORE
THE GROUP. THE SPECIAL POLICY PAPERS OF THE EEC AND U.S.
RECEIVED MAJOR ATTENTION IN THE GROUP. THE SECRETARIAT-

PREPARED U.S.POLICY PAPER CONTAINED SUBSTANTIAL DISTORTION WITH REGARD TO THE OPERATION OF THE TARGET PRICE AND DEFICIENCY PAYMENT SCHEMES UNDER THE RICE ACT OF 1975. THE U.S.DELEGATION SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME EXPLAINING THE OPERATION OF OUR NEW RICE ACT AND EXPLAINED THAT IT CONTAINED A DOMESTIC SUPPORT PROVISION WHICH DOES NOT ACT AS AN "EXPORT AID" AS DESCRIBED IN THE SECRETARIAT PAPER.

6. THE U.S.DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO CLARIFY INACCURACIES REGARDING THE U.S.RICE POLICY. THIS MEETING REPRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE U.S. TO CLARIFY AND PRESENT A CLEAR VIEW OF THE U.S. SITUATION FOR RICE AND THE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO OTHER EXPORTERS ACTIVITIES AND IMPORTERS PLANS.

7. NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP WILL BE IN 1978 WITH EXACT DATE IN MARCH TO BE DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARIAT.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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